Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) are continuing exploratory activities in the country. Since inception upto 1.4.2000, ONGC has acquired 3,11,485 Ground Line Kilometre (GLK) of 2D (two dimensional) as also 6,960 Standard Square Kilometer (SSK), 39,183 GLK and 67 Square Kilometre (Sq. Km). of 3D (three dimensional) seismic data in onland areas, and 5,15,843 Line Kilometre (LK) of 2D as also 4,64,361 LK of 3D seismic data in offshore areas. During the same period, OIL has acquired 38,130 GLK of 2D as also 1,377 Sq.Km of 3D seismic data in onland areas; and 22,810 LK of 2D/ 3D seismic data in offshore areas.

So far as private/joint venture companies are concerned, till 1.4.2000, 3,311 GLK of 2D as also 37 Sq.Km, of 3D seismic data in onland areas and 6,555 LK of 2D as also 3,783 Sq. Km. of 3D seismic data in off shore have been acquired in various exploration blocks and discovered field.

As a result of various exploratory efforts expended in the country, approximately 6.8 Billion tonnes of inplace Oil plus oil equivalent of gas (O +OEG), as on 1.4.2000. has been established in around 320 fields/ structures in onland and offshore areas of the contry.

Taxes on Petro-Products

†*237. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEIUM AND NATIURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of petrol and diesel increase due to taxes in the various metropolitan cities of the country;

(b) if so, what are the rates of all taxes being levied on petrol and diesel in Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai;

(c) the percentage of increase in the prices due to these; and

(d) whether the rates of these taxes will be reduced?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of sales tax etc. levied by the repective State Governments on petrol and diesel in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta are given in Statement (*See* below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The current State sales tax component in the ratail prices of petrol and diesel in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta are as under:—

	DELHI	MUMBAI	CHENNAI	CALCUTTA
PETROL				
Retail selling price (Rs./Ltr)	28.75	31.27	30.38	29.03
Sales Tax component in retail selling price (in percentage)	16.45 (0.05% Sulpur and 1% Benzene)	24.40 (0.1% Sulphur)	21.96 (0.1% Sulphur)	18.08 (0.05% Sulphur)
DIESEL				
Retail Selling price (Rs./Ltr)	16.55	17.06	20.07	18.01	16.92
Sales Tax component in retail selling price (in percentage)	10.57 (0.25% Sulphur)	10.55 (0.05% Sulphur)	26.66 (0.25% Sulphur)	18.05 (0.25% Sulphur)	12.77 (0.25% Sulphur)

(d) Minister of Petroleum and Natual Gas has appealed to all the Chief Ministers for suitable reduction in the rates of sales tax in their respective States. In response Government of Goa has reduced sales tax on petrol and diesel by 3% on 15.11.2000. The Governments of Karnataka and Maharashtra have responded unfavourably. Response from others is awaited and the matter is being pursued.

Statement

Sales Tax Rates on Petrol and Diesel—As on 01.11.2000

PARTICULARS	MS	% age HSD
MAHARASHTRA (MUMBAI)		
SALES TAX		
IRRECOVERABLE/NON RECOVERABLE:	30.00	34.00
CST-4% WHERE APPLICABLE		
DELHI		
SALES TAX		
IRRECOVERABLE/NON RECOVERABLE	20.00	12.00
CST-4% WHERE APPLICABLE		

PARTICULARS	MS	% age HSD
TAMIL NADU		
SALES TAX		
IRRECOVERABLE/NON RECOVERABLE:	24.00	18.00
ADDITIONAL TAX	3.00	3.00
PURCHASE TAX (INCLDG. TOT)	8.00	8.00
CST 4% WHERE APPLICABLE		
W. BENGAL		
SALES TAX	20.00	12.55
IRRECOVERABLE/NON RECOVERABLE:		
ADDITIONAL TAX	20.00	20.00
CST 4% WHERE APPLICABLE		

NOTES:

THERE IS A TAX REBATE OF Rs. 17/KL ON MS SALES IN WEST BENGAL

ABOVE DATA IS AS FURNISHED BY HPCL.

Setting-up of Supreme Court Benches in capital cities of the States

*238. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been actively considering to set-up regional benches of the Apex Court;

(b) if so, whether discussions with Supreme Court have been held in this regard and if so, their response thereto; and

(c) the time by when benches of the Supreme Court are likely to be set-up in the capital cities of the States?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) According to article 130 of the Constitution, "the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint."

The Chief Justice of India vide his letter dated 3rd Februaty, 2000 intimated that the Full Court considered the recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee contained in its 56th report for setting up Benches of the Supreme Court of India in Southern, Western and North-Eastern